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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **QINETIQ LIMITED** [GB/GB]; Registered Office, 85 Buckingham Gate, London SW1 6PD (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **KAUSHAL, Tej, Paul** [GB/GB]; QinetiQ Limited, Malvern Technology Centre, St Andrews Road, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 3PS (GB). **MANNING, Paul, Antony** [GB/GB]; QinetiQ Limited, Malvern Technology Centre, St Andrews Road, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 3PS (GB). **GILLHAM, John, Peter** [GB/GB]; QinetiQ Limited, Malvern Technology Centre, St Andrews Road, Malvern, Worcestershire

WR14 3PS (GB). **STACEY, Gary** [GB/GB]; Sphere Medical, Harston Mill, Harston, Cambridgeshire CB2 5GG (GB). **POOLEY, David, Martin** [GB/GB]; Sphere Medical, Harston Mill, Harston, Cambridgeshire CB2 5GG (GB). **LAITENBERGER, Peter, Georg** [DE/GB]; Sphere Medical, Harston Mill, Harston, Cambridgeshire CB2 5GG (GB).

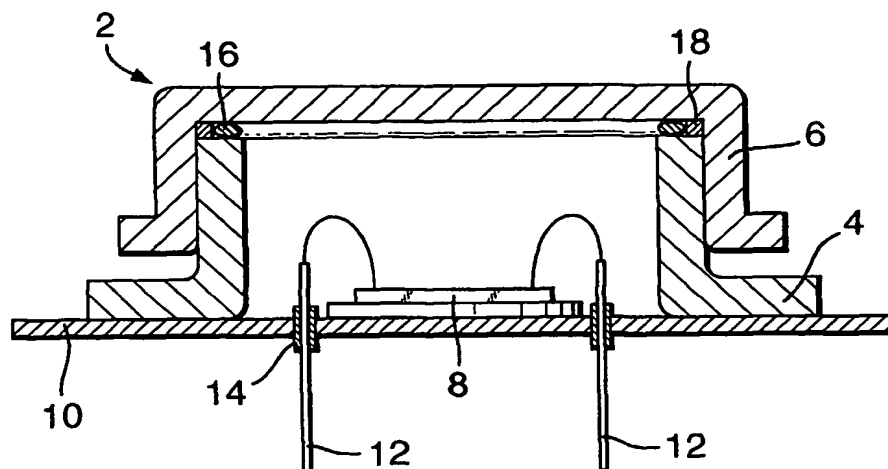
(74) Agent: **DAVIES, P.**; D/IP QinetiQ Formalities, Cody Technology Park, A4 Building, Room G016, Ively Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 0LX (GB).

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(54) Title: HERMETIC PACKAGING



(57) Abstract: A method of hermetically packaging an electronic device (8), in an enclosure (2) comprising mutually inter-engageable first and second housing members (4, 6), comprising the steps of securing the electronic device (8) to the first housing member (4), engaging the first (4) and second (6) housing members such that an hermetic seal is provided there between, wherein the engagement step is performed in a controlled atmosphere. The hermetic seal may be provided by an interference fit between the first (4) and second (6) housing members or via sealing means (16) interposed between the housing members (4, 6). The second housing member (6) may comprise an optical element (20), for example a window or lens. The packaging method is particularly applicable to packaging thermal detectors, for example microbolometer arrays.

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